



Jouyssance Early Music Ensemble presents

Joyeux Noël

Nicole Baker, Artistic Director



Saturday, January 10, 2026

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, Westchester, CA

Sunday, January 11, 2026

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Monrovia, CA

Jouyssance Early Music Ensemble

Nicole Baker, Artistic Director

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Deborah Dowling
Samuel Estes
Meredith Freeman
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Soo Bin Kwon

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Joyeux Noël Concert Program

Marche des Rois (March of the Three Kings)	Trad. Provençal Carol (anon., 13th C.) <i>Bruce Teter, medieval pipes; Curtis Berak, hurdy gurdy; John Schroeder, nakers</i>
Noël, noël, noël	Antoine Busnoys (c.1430-1492)
Chantons Noël, menons joyeuse vie	Pierre Certon (d. 1572)
Il est né	Lorraine (early 17th C. melody)
Noë pastores	Guillaume Bouzignac (c.1587-after 1642)
Joseph est bien marié	Trad. Provençal Carol (c.1500) <i>Bruce Teter, 19th C. musette; Curtis Berak, 18th C. viele a roue</i>
Viene pleine de duçur	Anglo-Norman (13th C.) <i>Lilia Ensemble: Soo Bin Kwon, Beth Loughton, Rebecca Russell</i>
Noë, Noë	Jean Mouton (before 1459-1522)
Alleluya: Verbum caro factum est	Busnoys
Nato canunt omnia	Antoine Brumel (c.1460-1512-13?) <i>Dedicated to the memory of Jeremy Shapira (1974-2025)</i>

Intermission

Noël Nouvelet	Trad. Provençal Noël (c.1500) <i>Bruce Teter, recorder</i>
Noë: Magnificatus est rex pacificus	Claudin Sermisy (c.1490-1562)
Propter nimiam caritatem	Guillaume Dufay (1397-1474)
Allons, Gay Bergeres	Guillaume de Costeley (c.1531-1606)
Psallat chorus/Eximie pater/Aptatur	Franco of Cologne? (c.1260)
Mirabile mysterium	Jacquet da Mantua (1483-1559)
Orienti Oriens	St. Martial School (11th C.)
Reges Terrae	Pierre Manchicourt (c.1510-1564)
Un flambeau, Jeanette, Isabelle	Provençal Noël (early 17th C.) <i>Bruce Teter, musette</i>
O admirabile commercium–Tu lumen	Loyset Compère (c.1445-1518)

Program Notes

Welcome to our concert of carols, Noël's and motets covering some 600 years of French music history. You'll hear everything from the haunting sounds of early polyphony to ornate, sophisticated motets by late Renaissance masters.

We begin with the stark *Noel, noel, noel* by Antoine Busnoys, whose works represent the last stage of the transition from the often thorny Middle Ages to the sweeter sounding Renaissance. He worked for both the Burgundian and Hapsburg courts and is known best for his chansons. This smoother transitional style is evident in this homorhythmic work, as well as in *Alleluya, Verbum caro factum est*, heard later in the program.

Known primarily for his engaging, rhythmic chansons, Pierre Certon wrote *Chantons Noël* as a contrafactum of his dance song *J'ay le rebours*. The Melun native spent much of his career in Paris, serving first as a clerk at Notre Dame as well as a musician in the King's court. He also held the post of master of choristers at Sainte-Chapelle. After an almost hymn-like beginning, *Chantons Noël* takes on the snappy rhythms you'd expect from a dance tune.

Guillaume Bouzignac contributed substantially to the repertory of sacred music during the reign of Louis XIII of France, whom he mentions in tonight's *Noe Pastores*. This unusual work features the angel Gabriel addressing the obviously nervous shepherds, who ask lots of questions about the birth of Christ. Many of Bouzignac's works are blatantly theatrical and probably served as mini-liturgical dramas for important feast days. Here, he also indulges in a little self-plagiarism: the dramatic, static "dum silentium" passage ("while all things were silent") comes from a work Bouzignac wrote for Holy Week.

The years following the Norman conquest of Britain saw the intermingling of cultures – especially with regards to music. The anonymous Marian devotional song *Viene pleine de duçur* is one of five surviving pieces of 13th century polyphony with texts in Anglo-Norman, the French dialect spoken in medieval England. This lilting homophonic work displays the "sweet English sounds" of the late Middle Ages in Britain.

The French composer Jean Mouton spent much of his life working for the French Court, where he served Louis XII and his successor, François I. Known throughout Europe for his motets, Mouton was reputedly a favorite composer of Pope Leo X, and may have accompanied François I to his meeting with Henry VIII of England in 1520 at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. The four-voice work *Noe, Noe*, published in 1519, features lots of imitation and alternating pairs of voices.

Antoine Brumel is perhaps best known today for his monumental 12-voice mass, *Missa Et ecce terrae motus*, or "The Earthquake Mass." More purely French in style than his contemporary, the very international Josquin des Prez, Brumel's thick textures are full of rhythmic complexity, resembling those of his possible teacher, Johannes Ockeghem. The extended compilation of Christmas texts in the joyous *Nato canunt omnia* (you'll hear snippets of "Hodie," "Magnificat" and "Puer natus") incorporates a catalogue of styles from around 1500.

Known primarily for his Parisian chansons, Claudin Sermisy worked for the French court under several monarchs, serving also at Ste Chapelle du Palais. He produced 78 motets and 13 Mass settings, making him one of the most important French composers of sacred polyphony in the early 16th century. The text is always clear, thanks to the translucent polyphony and audible structure, as seen in our presentation of *Noe: Magnificatus est Rex Pacificus*.

The highly influential 15th century composer Guillaume Dufay spent his early years at Cambrai, and went on to work in Bologna, Rome, Savoy and Burgundy. Born a generation before Busnoys, Dufay's forward-looking music synthesized the various trends of the time, reflecting the influence of John Dunstable and other British composers. *Propter nimiam caritatem* is a good example of his plainchant settings influenced by *fauxbourdon*, where the cantus and tenor are written out but an often improvised third voice replicates the cantus line a 4th below, creating a series of parallel chords.

Written in the style of a secular chanson, *Allons gay bergeres* is perhaps the best-known work of its late Renaissance French composer, Guillaume Costeley. He was the chief composer of Parisian chansons of his generation, writing over 100 of the popular genre. He also participated in the development of *musique mesurée*, an attempt by a group of French poets and composers to imitate the rhythm of Greek poetry.

The men of Jouyissance present the late medieval Franconian motet *Psallat chorus/Eximie pater/Aptatur*. Before the innovations of theorist and composer Franco of Cologne, rhythm in sacred music was limited to six patterns. Polytextual motets like this one break free of the rhythmic modes and show some independence among the voices, using a notation system foreshadowing what we have today. The result is a delightful work involving two active upper voices and a slower moving, repetitive, lower voice.

Although relatively unknown today, Jacquet da Mantua was one of the leading composers of motets and Masses during the second quarter of the 16th century. He represents an important "midway point" between Josquin, whose work his closely resembles, and Palestrina. He worked for the Estes of Ferrara before moving to Mantua in 1526, serving the Gonzaga court until his death. He also worked as *maestro di cappella* of the Mantua Cathedral. His later work *Mirabile mysterium* is typical of his mature style, relying on pervading imitation as the generating principle. Full sonorities and unbroken rhythmic flow dominate the texture.

An 11th century setting of Latin metrical text, *Orienti Oriens* comes from Aquitaine in southwestern France, the region that gave birth to the first substantial multi-voice works. This surprisingly virtuosic example of St. Martial polyphony (named after the Abbey which housed most of the manuscripts) features the extended opening and closing melismas typical of the style.

French composer Pierre Manchicourt worked at Arras, Tours and Tournai before moving to Madrid, where he served Philip II first as master of the Flemish Chapel, and then taking on the additional position of master of Philip's Spanish chapel. Yes, Philip had both. The massive 6-voice motet *Reges Terrae* reflects the influence of Josquin and Gombert with its attention to text and heavy amount of imitation.

A native of Hainaut (now in Belgium), Loyset Compère is best known for his chansons. Like many Franco-Flemish composers, Compère worked in Italy before entering the service of the French King Charles VII, working at Cambrai and Douai. Compère's place in music history between Ockeghem and Josquin is seen in *O admirabile commercium*, in which he employs some of the pioneering imitative techniques used by later composers. In this work, the opening portion is based on a chant cantus firmus. Once the meter changes, Compère utilizes free imitative polyphony.

— Nicole Baker, Ph.D

Translations

Noel, noel, noel (Busnoys)

Noël!

Chantons Noël (Certon)

Chantons Noël, menons joyeuse vie,
Enfans d'honneur ayez de joye envye;
Car Dieu est nay, va l'ange racomptant.
Plaisons lui tant, tant, En luy récitant,
Qu' il ne nous laisse mye,
Et sa mère autant,
En Noël chantant, Sera bien notre amye.
Gentils pasteurs, tristesse est en oublye,
Joye esl aux cieulx et en terre anoblye,
Fuyez esmoy, ayez le cueur plaisant.
Et en ce faisant Dieu vous va baysant,
Que sa grace publye.
En satisfaisant, Sathan desplaisant
A la main affoyblie.

Il est né (Traditional)

Noe pastores (Bouznigac)

Noe!
Pastores, cantate Domino canticum novum.
Dum silentium tenerent omnia,
et nox in suo cursu iter haberet:
Angel: Gloria, Gloria!
Shepherd: Quis est hoc?
Angel: Gabriel ego sum.
Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum.
Shepherd: Quale?
Angel: Natus est vobis...
Shepherd: Quis?
Angel: ... Salvator.
Shepherd: Ubi?
Angel: In Bethlehem Juda.
Noe! canticum novum.
Shepherd: Gabriel!
Angel: Pastores ecce ego.
Shepherd: Ubi est pan noster?
Angel: Dixi, in Bethleem.
Shepherd: Ubi reclinat caput?
Angel: Sub fano.
Shepherd: Gabriel! Angel: Pastores!
Shepherd: In palatio?
Angel: Non, in stabulo.
Shepherd: O bonitas!
Angel: O pietas!

Noël!

Let us sing Noël, let us all be joyful,
Children of honour, be full of joy
For God is born, said the angel.
Let us give him pleasure, In speaking to him,
May he not abandon us,
And his mother as well,
By singing Noël He shall well be our friend.
Kind shepherds, all sadness is forgotten,
Joy fills heaven and earth,
Forget all sadness, let your hearts be glad.
And in so doing God will bless you
And his grace will satisfy you.
And in so doing Satan will be displeased
And his power over you, weakened.

lyrics on separate page

Noel!

Shepherds, Sing unto the Lord a new song.
When all was wrapped in silence,
and night was pursuing its course:
Angel: Glory Glory!!
Shepherd: Who is there?
Angel: It is I, Gabriel.
I proclaim to you great joy.
Shepherd: Of what kind?
Angel: Unto you is born...
Shepherd: Who?
Angel: ...a Saviour.
Shepherd: Where?
Angel: In Bethlehem of Judaea.
Noel! A new song.
Shepherd: Gabriel!
Angel: Shepherds here I am.
Shepherd: Where is our bread?
Angel: As I said, in Bethleem.
Shepherd: Where does he rest his head?
Angel: In the hay.
Shepherd: Gabriel! Angel: Shepherds!
Shepherd: In a palace?
Angel: No, in a stable.
Shepherd: O goodness!
Angel: O holiness!

Carol Song Sheet

Il est né, le Divin Enfant

Refrain:

Il est né le divin enfant
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes
Il est né le divin enfant,
Chantons tous son avènement

Verse 1:

Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous le promettaient les prophètes
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous attendions cet heureux temps

Verse 2:

2. Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Ah, que ses grâces sont parfaites.
Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant
Qu'il est doux ce Divin Enfant.

Joseph est bien marié

Joseph est bien marié
à la fille de Jessé
C'était chose bien nouvelle
D'être mère et pucelle.
Dieu y avait opéré: Joseph est bien marié.

Et quand ce vint au premier
Que Dieu nous voulut sauver
Il fit en terre descendre
Son cher fils Jésus pour prendre
En Marie humanité: Joseph est bien marié.

A Noël sur la minuit
La Vierge enfant ta son fruit,
Sans lit, traversin ni couche
De ce lieu elle ne bouge
Où son âme était lié: Joseph est bien marié.

He is born, the Divine Child

Refrain

He is born, the Heav'nly Child,
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding.
He is born, the Heavenly Child,
Let all sing His nativity.

'Tis four thousand years and more,
Prophets have forever His coming.
'Tis four thousand years and more,
Have we waited this happy hour.

Ah, how lovely, Ah, how fair,
What perfection is His graces.
Ah, how lovely, Ah, how fair,
Child divine, so gentle there.

Joseph is well married

Joseph is well married
to the daughter of Jesse.
It was a really new thing
to be mother and virgin at once
God has worked: Joseph is well married.

And when the time came
That God wished to save us,
He sent down to earth
His beloved son Jesus to take on
Humanity in Mary: Joseph is well married.

At Christmas, at midnight,
The Virgin gives birth to her child,
Without bed, pillow, or cradle,
She does not move from this place
Where her soul laid: Joseph is well married.

Noël nouvelet

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
Dévotes gens, redons à Dieu merci !
Chantons Noël pour le Roi nouvelet
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

Quand je m'éveillai, et j'eus assez dormi,
Ouvris les yeux, vis un arbre fleuri,
Dont il istait un bouton merveillet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

Quand je le vis, mon cœur fut resjouy,
Car grande clarté resplendissait de luy
Comme le soleil qui luit au matinnet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle

Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle
Un flambeau, courons au berceau.
C'est Jésus, bonnes gens du hameau,
Le Christ est né, Marie appelle
Ah! Ah! Ah! Que la mère est belle
Ah! Ah! Ah! que l'Enfant est beau.

C'est un tort, quand l'Enfant sommeille,
C'est un tort de crier si fort.
Taisez-vous, l'un et l'autre, d'abord!
Au moindre bruit, Jésus s'éveille.
Chut! chut! Il dort à merveille,
Chut! chut! Voyez comme il dort!

Doucement, dans l'étable close,
Doucement, venez un moment!
Approchez! Que Jésus est charmant!
Comme il est blanc! Comme il est rose!
Do! Do! Que l'Enfant repose!
Do! Do! Qu'il rit en dormant!

New Christmas

Let us sing Noel, let us sing Noel here!
Pious people, let us cry to God for mercy!
Let us sing Noel for the new little King!
Let us sing Noel, let us sing Noel here.

When I woke up, and had slept enough,
I opened my eyes and saw a tree in flower
From which there emerged a little red bud.
Let us sing Noel, let us sing Noel here.

When I saw it, my heart rejoiced,
For a great light shown from it
Like the sun that shines in the early morning..
Let us sing Noel, let us sing Noel here.

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabelle

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella,
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village;
Christ is born and Mary's calling:
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Mother!
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is Her Son!

It is wrong when the Child is sleeping,
It is wrong to talk so loud!
Silence, all, as you gather around,
Lest your noise should waken Jesus:
Hush! Hush! See how fast He slumbers;
Hush! Hush! See how fast He sleeps!

Softly to the little stable,
Softly for a moment come;
Look and see how charming is Jesus,
How He is white, His cheeks are rosy!
Hush! Hush! See how the Child is sleeping;
Hush! Hush! See how He smiles in dreams!

Shepherd: *Cur Deus factus homo?*
 Angel: *Ut homo Deus fieret.*
 Shepherd: *Cur mortalis?*
 Angel: *Ut vos immortales rederet.*
 Shepherd: *Cur humilis?*
 Angel: *Ut vos elevaret.*
Sic contraria contrariis curantur.
Pro sole nascente, Noe, Triumphe!
Pro aurora ejus, Noe, Triumphe!

Joseph est bien marié (Traditional)

Veine pleine de duçur (Anglo-Norman)

Veine pleine de duçur, Veir espeir de vie,
Chere mere al creatur, De tuz biens garnie,
Duz contort En doel e Plur,
Al besoigne age, Veir sucur at peceheur
Ki laist sa folie: Ave Maria.
Was portastes Jhesu crist, Virgne entere pure;
Oil ki ciel e terre fist e toute creature
Char e sane dedenz vus prist
Sanz point de blesure
Kit pur nus en la croiz mist
A mort aspre e dure: Ave Maria,
Priez pur nus ton enfant, Virgne sub e mere,
Ki nus Boit verray guarant
vers l'enfernal lere,
Sucurables e aydant
A la mort amere,
E nus doinst la joie grant
Du ciel par ta priere: Ave Maria.

Noe, Noe (Mouton)

Noe, noe, noe, psallite noe.
 Hierusalem, gaude et laetare,
 quia hodie natus est Salvator mundi.
 Noe, noe, noe, jacet in praesepio,
 fulget in caelo.
 Noe, noe, noe, attollite portas,
 principes, vestras, et elevamini,
 portae aeternales,
 et introibit Rex gloriae.
 Noe, noe, noe, quis est iste Rex gloriae?
 Dominus virtutum, ipse est Rex gloriae.

Alleluya, Verbum caro factum est (Busnoys)

Alleluya. Verbum caro factum est,
et habitavit in nobis. Alleluya.

Shepherd: Why did God become man?
 Angel: That man might become God.
 Shepherd: Why mortal?
 Angel: That you might be made immortal.
 Shepherd: Why so lowly?
 Angel: That he might raise you.
 Thus they went in question and answer.
 To our new-born sun, Noel, Hail!
 To our dawn, Noel, Hail!

lyrics on separate page

Stream full of sweetness, life's true hope,
 dear mother of the creator, possessing all good
 attributes, sweet comfort in sorrow and tears,
 our help in need, true support for the sinner, in
 abandoning his folly: Hail Mary.
 You carried Jesus Christ, virgin whole and pure;
 He who made heaven and earth and all creation
 took on flesh and blood inside you without
 causing any wound;
 Who for us was put to bitter and harsh death
 on the cross: Hail Mary.
 Pray your son for us, only virgin mother,
 that he be our true guarantor
 against the infernal thief,
 that he aid and help us
 when bitter death draws nigh,
 and that through your prayer he gives us the
 great joy of heaven: Hail Mary.

Noel, noel, noel, sing noel.
 Jerusalem, rejoice and be glad,
 for today is born the Savior of the world.
 Noel, noel, noel, he lies in a manger,
 he shines forth in heaven.
 Noel, noel, noel, lift up your gates,
 O ye princes, and be lifted up,
 ye everlasting doors,
 and the King of Glory shall enter in.
 Noel, noel, noel, who is this King of Glory?
 The Lord of hosts, he is the King of Glory.

Hallelujah, the Word was made flesh,
 and lived among us. Hallelujah.

Nato canunt omnia (Brumel)

Prima pars: Tenor

*Joseph fili David, noli timere
accipere Mariam conjugem tuam:
quod enim in ea natum est,
de Spiritu Sancto, alleluia. Noel.*

Prima pars

*Nato canunt omnia Domino pie agmina,
Sillabatim neumata perstringendo organica.
Haec dies sacrata, in qua nova sunt
gaudia mundo plena dedita.
Hac nocte praecelsa intonuit et gloria
in voce angelica.
Fulserunt et immanua nocte media
pastoribus lumina.
Dum foveant sua pecora, subito
diva percipiunt monita.
Magnificatus est Rex pacificus super
omnes reges universae terrae.
Angelus ad pastores ait:
Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum:
quia natus est hodie Salvator mundi, alleluia.
Natus alma virgine,
qui exstat ante saecula. Noel.*

Secunda pars: Tenor

*Puer natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis.
Exortus est in tenebris lumen rectis corde:
misericors et miserator, et justus Dominus.*

Secunda pars

*Puer natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis:
cujus imperium super humerum ejus:
et vocabitur nomen ejus,
magni consilii Angelus.
Verbum caro factum est, et habitavit in nobis,
Et vidimus gloriam ejus,
quasi Unigeniti a Patre,
plenum gratiae et veritatis.
Magnum nomen Domini Emmanuel,
Quod annunciatum est per Gabriel,
Hodie apparuit in Israel,
Per Mariam virginem et per Joseph.
Eia, eia! virgo Deum genuit,
sicut divina voluit clementia.
Pax in terra reddita
nunc laetentur omnia nati per exordia.
Ipse sua pietate solvat omnia peccata nostra.
Alleluia. Noel.*

Prima pars: Tenor

*O Joseph, son of David, do not fear
to accept Mary as your spouse:
for indeed in her he is born
of the Holy Spirit, hallelujah. Noel.*

Prima pars

*Let all ranks now sing to their new-born Lord,
with music of instruments fitted to
their words. This is that holy day on which new
joy is proclaimed to the whole world;
This night, exalted and glorious,
in an angelic voice, resounded.
In the middle of the night,
the shepherds' lights shone.
While they were tending their flocks, they
suddenly perceived divine warnings.
The King of peace is magnified above
all the kings of the whole earth.
The angel said to the shepherds:
I bring you good news of great joy: for today the
Savior of the world has been born, alleluia.
Born of the Virgin Mary,
who existed before the ages. Noel.*

Secunda pars: Tenor

*A boy is born unto us, and a Son is given to us.
A light has arisen in the darkness with a right
heart: a merciful and pitying, and a just Lord.*

Secunda pars

*A boy is born unto us, and a Son is given to us,
whose authority is on his shoulder;
and his name is called,
the Angel of great judgement.
The Word was made flesh, and lived among us;
and we have seen his glory, befitting the
only-begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.
Great is the name of the Lord Emmanuel,
which was announced by Gabriel,
Today he has appeared in Israel,
by the virgin Mary and by Joseph.
Ah, ah! a maiden brings forth God
as divine mercy willed.
Peace is restored on earth;
now let all rejoice in the newborn at the start.
By his very love, all our sins are cleared.
Alleluia. Noel.*

Intermission

Noël Nouvelet (Traditional)

lyrics on separate page

Noe: Magnificatus est rex pacificus

Noe, noe, noe. *Magnificatus est rex pacificus
super omnes reges universae terrae.
Scitote, quia prope est regnum Dei,
amen dico vobis, quia non tardabit.
Noe, noe, noe. Levate capita vestra,
ecce appropinquabit redemptio vestra.
Noe, noe, noe.*

Propter nimiam caritatem (Dufay)

*Propter nimiam caritatem suam,
qua dilexit nos deus filium suum misit
in similitudinem carnis peccati, alleluia.*

Allon gay bergeres (Costeley)

*Allon, gay bergeres, allon gay,
Allon, gay, soyez legeres, suivez moy.
Allon, allon voir le Roy,
Qui du ciel en terre est nay.
Un beau present luy feray; de quoy?
De ce flageolet que j'ay tant gay.
Un beau gasteau luy donneray;
Et moy, plein Hanap luy offriray.
Ho, ho, paix-la, je le voy,
Il tette bien sans le doigt, le petit Roy.
Allon, gay bergeres, allon gay,
Allon, gay, soyez legeres, le Roy boit.*

Psallat chorus/eximie pater/Aptatur

Triplum

*Psallat chorus in novo carmine,
Organico cum modulamine
Magne Pater, in tuo nomine.
Custodi nos sub tuo tegmine, Domine
Nicholae, tuo praecamine
Angelica cum multitudine
Nos colloca sanctorum agmine
Quod nobis aptatur.*

Duplum

*Eximie pater et regine
Rector pie, doctor egregie,
Roga Jesum filium Mariae
Pro famulis hujus ecclesiae hac die.
Nicholae, nos doce hodie
Rectum viam caelestis patriae,
Ut fruamur aeterna requie
Quae nobis aptatur.*

Tenor

Aptatur.

Noel, noel, noel. The king of peace is praised.
above all the kings of the earth.
Know ye that the kingdom of God is near;
I say Amen to you, because he will not delay.
Noel, noel, noel. Lift up your heads:
behold, your redemption approaches.
Noel, noel, noel.

On account of his overabundant love
wherewith he loved us, God sent his Son
in the likeness of sinful flesh, hallelujah.

Let us go gaily, shepherdesses,
Let us go gaily, be gentle, follow me.
Let us go see the King,
Who from heaven is born on earth.
A beautiful gift I shall make him; what kind of gift?
This little flute I have, so gay.
I will give him a cake.
And I, I'll offer him a full chalice.
Ah, hush: I see him! He's sucking well,
not on his thumb, the little King!
Let us go gaily, shepherdesses,
Let us go gaily, be gentle, the King is drinking!

Triplum

Let the choir sing a new song
with tuneful melody
in Thy name, O great Father.
Protect us under Your shield, O Lord.
O Nicholas, by your prayers place us
with the angelic host
and brotherhood of saints,
which is prepared for us.

Duplum

O excellent and regal father,
O pious ruler, O outstanding tacher,
pray today to Jesus, the son of Mary,
on behalf of the servants of this church.
Nicholas, teach us today
the true way of the heavenly kingdom,
that we may enjoy the eternal rest
which is prepared for us.

Tenor

Is prepared.

Mirabile mysterium (da Mantua)

*Mirabile mysterium declaratur hodie,
innovantur naturae; Deus homo factus est;
id quod fuit, permansit,
et quod non erat, assumpsit,
non commixtionem passus neque divisionem.*

Orienti oriens (St. Martial School)

*Orienti oriens, Stella nova claruit
Et Jacob egrediens, Lucifer emicuit
Balaam presagiens, Ut olim edocuit
Autor secli nascitur
Seculorum vespere
Ac magis agnoscitur artifex in opere.
Adorandus creditur
Unus trino munere
In ture divinitas, In auro dominum
Im murra mortalitas et carnis supplicum
Et hec tria caritas offerat fidelium.*

Reges terrae (Manchicourt)

*Reges terrae congregati sunt
convenerunt in unum, dicentes:
Eamus in Judam et inquiramus:
Ubi est qui natus est rex magnus
cujus stellam vidimus? Allelúia.
Et venientes invenerunt puerum
cum María matre ejus,
et prociuentes adoraverunt eum,
offerentes ei aurum, thus, et myrrham. Allelúia.*

Un flambeau, Jeanette, Isabelle (Trad)

O admirabile commercium (Compère)

*O admirabile commercium!
Humáni géneris Créator
hodie ex vírgine násci dignátus est:
Chríste, redemptor ómnium,
et Pátre Pátris únicae, sólus ánte princípium,
nátus ineffábiliter.
Tu lúmen, tu spléndor Pátris,
tu spes perénnis Omnium.
Inténde quas fúndunt préces
túi per órbe fámuli.*

Tenor

*Christus natus est nobis per quem
salus eterna mundo apparuit.*

A wondrous mystery is declared today,
an innovation is made upon nature; God is made man;
that which he was, he remains,
and that which he was not, he takes on,
suffering neither commixture nor division.

O rising from the east A new star has shone;
And Jacob departing, Lucifer has sprung forth,
Balaam foreshadowing, As once he taught.
The Author of the age is born
In the evening of the ages;
Yet better is known the Maker in the work.
It is believed the One in Three
Must be adored with tribute.
In incense, divinity; In gold, kingship;
In myrrh, mortality, and suffering of the flesh.
And the charity of the faithful offers these three.

The kings of the earth are gathered,
they have come together as one, saying:
Let us go to Judea and ask:
"Where is he that is born a great king,
whose star we have seen?" Alleluia.
And when they came, they found the young child
with Mary, his mother,
and, falling down, they worshipped him,
offering him gold, incense and myrrh. Alleluia.

lyrics on separate page

O wonderful interchange!
The Creator of the human race
today deigned to be born of a virgin:
O Christ, the redeemer of all,
and by the Father, of the Father uniquely,
alone before the beginning, born wondrously.
You are the light, you are the splendor of the Father,
you are the perpetual hope of all.
Hear the prayers they pour out,
your servants throughout the world.

Christ was born for us through whom
eternal salvation appeared to the world.

About the Ensemble

Artistic Director **Nicole Baker's** passion, humor and vision have helped further the mission of Jouyssance since 1999. Dr. Baker earned her MFA in vocal performance and her Ph.D. in musicology from UCLA, and served on the music history and voice faculties of California State University, Fullerton for 25 years. She has conducted choirs throughout Southern California, and currently works as the Traditional Choir Director at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Pasadena.

Jouyssance Early Music Ensemble is Southern California's only vocal ensemble dedicated exclusively to early music. With predecessor ensembles dating back to 1961, Jouyssance is dedicated to presenting historically informed performances that inspire, entertain and educate.

Stay Connected

Please sign up for our email list to receive notices of future concerts by Jouyssance. Follow us on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram or X (Twitter) — links at www.jouyssance.org.

Jouyssance occasionally holds auditions for all voice parts. If you are interested in joining us, contact the director at nicole@jouyssance.org.

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